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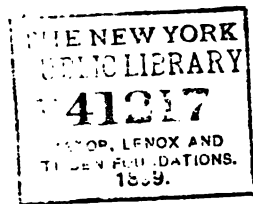
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A
NOTICE
OF
ELY CHAPEL, HOLBORN;
WITH
SOME ACCOUNT OF ELY PALACE:
TO WHICH ARE ADDED
SHORT BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCHES OF SOME OF THE
BISHOPS OF ELY.

BY THE REV. T. B. MURRAY, M.A.

“ — I do love these ancient ruins :
We never tread upon them, but we set
Our foot upon some reverend history.”

LONDON:
JOHN W. PARKER, WEST STRAND.

M.DCCC.XL.

LONDON :
HARRISON AND Co., PRINTERS,
ST. MARTIN'S LANE.

ANDY W. H.
2100
V. 1000

ADVERTISEMENT.

THE writer has felt much pleasure in collecting and arranging the particulars which he now ventures to commit to the press. He hopes that his notice of Ely Chapel and Palace may afford pleasure to some readers, from the mention which it makes of certain exemplary persons and remarkable events; and that it may be the means of calling attention to a venerable fabric, which, though situated in a thickly-peopled neighbourhood, is comparatively little known; which is distinguished for antiquity and religious interest; and in which the worship of God is celebrated at this day in a due and becoming manner.

LONDON, 1840.

ELY CHAPEL AND PALACE, ELY PLACE, HOLBORN.

AMONG the thousands of persons who daily pass the iron gates dividing Ely Place from Holborn, one of the principal thoroughfares of London, few, comparatively, are aware of the religious and historical interest attached to the spot mentioned in our title. The name of "Ely Place" has not changed with the lapse of centuries. Full five hundred years have gone by; and it still retains the ancient designation which it received as the once magnificent town residence of the Bishops of Ely. Every stone of the secular portion of the episcopal palace has long since been levelled with the ground; and the only relic of antiquity existing on the original site is a beautiful chapel dedicated to the service of God, and called after St. Etheldreda, queen and virgin, foundress of the abbey of Ely*.

In former times, most of the bishops had seats, or, as they were commonly called, Places, in or near London, in which they resided during their attendance on parliament: and at the periods of this residence they were accustomed to exercise ecclesiastical jurisdiction in their town places, just as in their own dioceses in the country. The Bishop of Bangor had anciently a palace in Shoe Lane, Holborn; and the Bishop of Lincoln possessed one in the village of Holborn, or

* Etheldreda, otherwise Audry, was daughter of Anna, King of the East Angles, and is mentioned by Bede, for her love of purity and sanctity. She died in the year 680. She was succeeded in the government of the abbey at Ely by her sister, Queen Sexburga, whose daughter Ermenilda, also a queen, became the next abbess; so that the three first abbesses of Ely were queens. The father, brother, and three sisters of Etheldreda appear in the list of Romish Saints.

Oldbourne. Winchester Place, Southwark, once a splendid palace of the Bishop of Winchester, was replaced by a house at Chelsea, which has also long ceased to be an episcopal residence.

By far the most extensive "citie habitation" of this kind, placed in the very heart of the metropolis, was that of the Bishops of Ely, from about 1320 to 1772, on the spot which we are describing. Since the year 1772, the Bishops of Ely have successively occupied a house in Dover Street, Piccadilly, which was then annexed to their office, in lieu of the old Ely Place; but there is still a small piece of property belonging to the see, in the parish of St. Andrew, Holborn, namely, the Charity School House in Hatton Garden, and a slip of ground running behind the houses in Kirby Street.

The Chapel, though deprived of its original character in reference to the episcopal mansion, and no longer containing within its walls a Bishop's throne, is still a benefit and an ornament to the neighbourhood in which it stands; and within its walls the morning and evening services of our Church are on every Lord's day duly performed. Newcourt, in his *Repertorium Londinense*, written in the year 1700, says of Ely Chapel, "It is to this day a very fair, large, old chapel." This venerable structure may be considered to be of about the date of 1320; though an ecclesiastical building appears to have occupied its site at an earlier period. The rich and highly decorated eastern window, as seen from Ely Place, affords a pleasing specimen of the style of the fourteenth century. It, however, evidently wants a considerable portion of its original length, having been reduced from the lower part. The western window is of four mullions with cinque-foil arches; and above these, a circle filled with three roses and two quatre-foils. It is not less beautiful than that at the east end; but it is choked up with buildings, so as to be inaccessible from without, and is also greatly obscured by the west gallery

within. The floor of the building being raised ten or twelve feet above the level of the ground in Ely Place, the access to the Chapel is by a flight of stone steps, leading to two small doors, for which the wall has been pierced. These steps and doors have been added since the year 1772; the entrance having formerly been from the west, and south-west. The only approach is now from the east, in Ely Place.

The Chapel is in the form of a parallelogram, in length ninety-one feet, and breadth thirty-nine. It contains room for about five hundred and fifty persons. Upwards of half of the sittings are free. Partly, however, in consequence of its position, thrown back, as it is, amidst a row of houses, beyond which is no thoroughfare, this building is less known and appreciated in the neighbourhood than it ought to be; especially when the large population of the district in which it is situated is taken into account.

The galleries on the north and south sides are supported by plain columns of wood. These, with the ceiling and cornices, which were added at the latter part of the last century, might be styled neat in a more modern building, but certainly do not harmonize with the five narrow and elegant windows on each side, and the florid and grotesque ornaments between them, nor with the ancient aspect of the place in general. One window on each side has been filled up. On the south side, as lately as seventy years since, the Bishop of Ely, like his predecessors, sat enthroned in the chapel, as in a cathedral.

Subsequently to that period, this interesting structure has evidently lost some of its ornamental parts. Very shortly after its alienation from the see of Ely, in 1772, of which we shall have to speak presently, the chapel was dismantled of a fine altar-piece and pulpit. These have been replaced by others of a plainer description.

After surveying the interior of the building, the visitor will

observe a good door-way at the south-west, which appears to be of about the beginning or middle of the fourteenth century. Viewing it from the outside, though rather at a disadvantage, owing to the narrowness of the space, he will also notice, at the angle on his left hand, a rude and massive fragment of wall, evidently a portion of the old building; and, adjoining it, the octagonal turret of the Chapel, crowned with a conical top or cap. In the year 1772, when Grose described Ely Chapel, in his *Antiquities*, there was a similar turret or buttress at each corner. On the south side were formerly the Cloisters; these, with the quadrangle which they inclosed, covered a space about three times as large as the site of the Chapel itself. On the north side of the building, a view of which is presented in the engraving at the beginning of this work, there are now stables; but anciently, there was a field, planted with large and handsome trees, and surrounded by a wall.

The low, arched gateway, seen in this print, to the north-west, about which a quantity of earth and rubbish has accumulated, making the ground higher than formerly, leads into a dark souterrain, or crypt, which, stretching under the whole extent of the Chapel, is stated by Malcolm, in his *Account of London*, to have been formerly used as a burial-place for inhabitants dying within the precinct, when Ely Place was occupied by the bishop and his establishment. This is by no means improbable, though there appear no certain grounds for the assertion. We have ample proof of Christenings and Marriages having been solemnized in the Chapel, the original registers of which are in existence. It appears, also, that in early times, three chaplains were appointed, on certain conditions, to pray within the chapel, for the soul of Bishop William de Luda, who died in 1297, and for the souls of the Bishops of Ely for ever. Considering this, and the great extent of the premises, together with the then distinctive character of the place, as a Liberty, invested

with peculiar privileges and immunities, it is most likely that the persons immediately connected with it, and dying there, would be buried within it.

The crypt has six windows on the north, answering to as many niches on the south side; but several of the windows are now stopped up. The chief entrance to it is from Ely Place, by an arched doorway under the east window. There is also an entrance, noticed above, at the north-west, from the mews at the end of Ely Place. Within the crypt eight enormous chestnut posts, with powerful girders, running from east to west, support the floor of the Chapel; and though upon these, as well as other parts of the fabric, time has produced a visible effect, there is a massiveness and solidity about the whole edifice which afford a promise of its lasting entire for many years to come.

The earliest date which can be assigned to Ely Place, in connexion with Ely, is that of John de Kirkeby, (appointed bishop in 1286,) who left, by will, to his successors in the See, a messuage and nine cottages in the parish of St. Andrew, Holborn, which messuage became thenceforth the capital mansion of the bishop of Ely. The following curious documents, copied from the original in the Tower of London, clearly indicate the nature and extent of the original bequest.

Close Roll, 18 Edw. I. m. 6.

Pro Executoribus
Testamenti
Eliensis Episcopi.

Quia Rex intellexit quod bonæ memoriæ Johannes nuper Eliensis Episcopus defunctus domos suas quas habuit in Parochia Sancti Andreæ juxta Holeburn in suburbio et infra libertatem civitatis Londoniæ, in ultima voluntate sua legavit Deo et Ecclesiæ Sanctæ Etheldredæ de Ely et successoribus suis Episcopis ejusdem loci, Ita quod ipsi debita in quibus idem defunctus tenebatur Gregorio de Rokesle civi Regis, Londoniæ pro domibus, illis acquietarent; mandatum est Radulpho de Sandwico Custodi civitatis prædictæ, quod domos

prædictas cum pertinentiis quæ sunt in manu Regis et in custodia Regis ratione mortis prædicti Episcopi, executoribus testamenti ejusdem Episcopi sine dilatione liberet ad executionem testamenti prædicti inde faciendam. Teste Rege apud Westmonasterium decimo octavo die Julii.

For the Executors of the Will of the Bishop of Ely.

Whereas the King hath understood that John, late Bishop of Ely, deceased, of pious memory, hath in his last will bequeathed his houses which he had in the parish of St. Andrew, near Holborn, in the suburbs, and within the liberty of the city of London, to God and the Church of St. Etheldreda of Ely, and his successors, bishops of the same place, so that they should pay the debts which the same deceased owed for those houses to Gregory de Rokesly, the King's citizen of London; Ralph de Sandwich, warden of the said city, is commanded, that, without delay, he deliver the aforesaid houses with appurtenances, which are in the King's hand and custody, by reason of the death of the aforesaid bishop, to the executors of the will of the same bishop, thereof to make execution of the said will.

Witness, the King at Westminster, on the 18th day of July.

Inquis. 31 Edw. I., No. 167.

Inquisitio capta coram Simone de Parys et Hugone Pourte Vicecomitibus Londoniæ, die Dominica proxima post festum Sancti Matthiæ Apostoli, anno regni Regis Edwardi tricesimo primo, per sacramentum Thomæ de Newenham, Thomæ Le Clerck, Roberti Le Marescal, Willielmi ate Gate, Galfridi de Chelchethe, Gerardi Le Barber, Willielmi Le Coteler, Adæ de Droyton, Petri de Wymbourn, Galfridi de Berthone, Adæ Bray, et Rogeri Fleg, si sit ad damnum vel præjudicium domini Regis vel alicujus alterius, si dominus Rex concedat Venerabili Patri Roberto Elyensi Episcopo, quod ipse unum mesuagium, novem cotagia cum pertinentiis in vico de Holebourn in suburbio Londoniæ, quæ fuerunt bonæ memoriæ Johannis de Kirkeby, nuper Episcopi ejusdem loci, et quæ idem Johannes in testamento suo in ultima voluntate sua legavit Ecclesiæ Sanctæ Etheldredæ Elyensi et successoribus suis episcopis loci prædicti secundum consuetudinem civitatis Londoniæ habenda imperpetuum, habere possit et tenere sibi et ecclesiæ suæ prædictæ ac successoribus suis epi-

scopis ejusdem loci imperpetuum, juxta voluntatem testatoris prædicti, necne. Qui dicunt super sacramentum suum quod non est ad damnum nec præjudicium domini Regis nec alicujus alterius, si dominus Rex concedat præfato Venerabili Patri domino Roberto Elyensi Episcopo, sibi, Ecclesiæ suæ Sanctæ Etheldredæ et successoribus suis, prædictum mesuagium novem cotagia cum pertinentiis in vico de Holebourn in suburbio Londoniæ habere et tenere imperpetuum. Dicunt etiam quod prædictum mesuagium, novem cotagia cum pertinentiis valent libere per annum, dum tamen dicta cotagia sint locata, salvis servitiis capitalium Dominorum et sustentatione dicti mesuagii et cotagiorum, in omnibus exitibus, sexaginta duodecim solidos et undecim denarios. Dicunt etiam quod prædictum mesuagium et novem cotagia cum pertinentiis tenentur de Decano et Capitulo Sancti Pauli Londoniæ, reddendo inde eis per annum viginti et sex solidos, quatuor denarios, Item hospitali Sancti Bartholomei de Smethefeld sex solidos per annum, Item domino Waltero Cristemasse Capellano Hospitalis Sancti Egidii tresdecim solidos, Item Ecclesiæ Sancti Andreæ de Holebourne quatuor solidos et duos denarios per annum, et ad sustentationem unius lampadæ dictæ Ecclesiæ Sancti Andreæ de Holebourne quindecim denarios per annum. Dicunt etiam quod una placea terræ ubi magna porta exitus dicti tenementi versus vicum regium stat, tenetur in una sokna cuidam Præbendæ Ecclesiæ Sancti Pauli Londoniæ. In cujus rei testimonium huic Inquisitioni juratores prædicti sigilla sua apposuerunt. Data Londoniæ die et anno supradictis.

Inquisition taken before Simon de Parys and Hugh Pourte, Sheriffs of London, on Sunday next after the Feast of Saint Matthias the Apostle, in the thirty-first year of the reign of King Edward, by the oath of Thomas Newenham, Thomas the Clerk, Robert the Marescal, William at the Gate, Geoffrey Chelchethe, Gerard the Barber, William the Cutler, Adam Droyton, Peter Wymborn, Geoffrey Berthone, Adam Bray, and Roger Fleg, whether it be or not to the loss or prejudice of the Lord the King, or of any other person, if the King grant to the venerable father, Robert, Bishop of Ely, that he may have, and hold to himself, his church, and his successors, bishops of the same place, for ever, according to the will of the testator, one messuage and nine cottages with appurtenances, in the street of Holborn, in the suburbs of London,

which belonged to John de Kirkeby, of pious memory, late bishop of the same place, and which the same John in his testament in his last will bequeathed to the Church of St. Etheldreda, at Ely, and his successors, bishops of the same place, for ever, to be held according to the custom of the city of London, who say, on their oath, that it is not to the loss nor prejudice of the King, nor of any other person, if the King grant to the aforesaid venerable father, Robert, Lord Bishop of Ely, permission to have and hold to himself, his Church of St. Etheldreda, and his successors, for ever, the aforesaid messuage and nine cottages with appurtenances in the street of Holbourn, in the suburbs of London. They say also, that the aforesaid messuage and nine cottages with appurtenances are freely worth yearly in all issues, whilst the said cottages are tenanted (saving the services of the Chief Lords, and the keeping up the said messuage and cottages,) seventy-two shillings and eleven pence. They say also, that the aforesaid messuage and nine cottages with appurtenances, are holden of the Dean and Chapter of St. Paul, London, by rendering therefor to them yearly twenty-six shillings and four pence; to the Hospital of St. Bartholomew, Smithfield, six shillings yearly; to Master Walter Cristemasse, Chaplain of the Hospital of St. Giles, thirteen shillings; to the Church of St. Andrew, Holborn, four shillings and two pence yearly; and also fifteen pence yearly for the supply of a lamp in the Church of St. Andrew, Holborn. They say also, that one plot of ground where stands the great gate of egress of the said tenement towards the highway, is bounden to a certain prebend of the Church of St. Paul, London, in one soke*.

In witness whereof, the aforesaid Jurors have placed their seals to this Inquisition. Dated at London, on the abovesaid day and year.

De Luda, Bishop of Ely, who died in 1297, increased the demesne, and bequeathed fresh property to the See, on the condition that his immediate successors should pay one thousand marks, as a fund for the payment of three chaplains, for the performance of the services above mentioned. He also left three houses for the residence of the

* *Soke*.—A quit-rent or payment made to the lord by his tenant, for acting in the quality of a Sockman or Freeholder.—BAILEY.

chaplains. Bishop John de Hotham, at his death in 1336, added six messuages, two cellars, and forty acres of land, which he gave to the prior and convent of Ely to say masses for his soul, and for other objects. This chapter estate, of which the present Saffron Hill is the site, appears to have been distinct from the episcopal possessions adjoining it. Thus the Bishop first, and afterwards the Chapter of Ely, entered the pre-existing parish of St. Andrew, and possessed themselves there of a considerable estate, which, in virtue of certain ancient charters to the Church of Ely, was alleged to have become independent of regal or of any other authority; that church having constituted a kind of palatinate, possessing a distinct government in itself. Camden calls Ely Place "a citie habitation of the Bishops of Ely, well beseeming bishops to dwell in; for which they are beholden to John de Hotham, Bishop of Ely, under King Edward the Third."

Thomas Arundel, who was consecrated in 1373, and afterwards became Archbishop of Canterbury, expended great portions of his revenue on the palace. Whether, as some have thought, the present Chapel was of his building, or not, it is clear that a Chapel had been in existence here before: and it is more probable, that he improved and beautified it. This munificent prelate not only repaired the palace, but also erected a large front towards the street, in the stone-work of which his coat of arms, sculptured, was to be seen in the time of Stowe.

We shall now proceed to give an account of the Chapel, in connexion with that of the Palace itself; and we arrive, in chronological order, at a fact worthy of record, namely, the death of John of Gaunt, Duke of Lancaster, father of King Henry the Fourth, at Ely Place. He had probably resorted to this mansion, after the destruction by the rioters of his palace in the Savoy, Strand, which

was, before that time, one of the most magnificent mansions in the kingdom. The death of "the fiery duke," is thus noticed by Hollinshed :—

A.D. 1399.—In the meane time, the Duke of Lancaster departed out of this life at the Bishop of Elie's place, in Holborne, and lieth buried in the Cathedrall church of St. Paule, in London, on the north side of the high altar, by the Ladie Blanche, his first wife.—HOLLINSHED (*Richard II.*)

Many sumptuous feasts were given in Ely Palace. In Michaelmas Term, 1464, the serjeants at law held their banquet there, to which, among other distinguished persons, the Lord Mayor was invited, with the aldermen and sheriffs. But on the Lord Mayor's looking for the chief seat of state in the hall, as was always the custom, within the city and its liberties, when the king was not present, Lord Grey of Ruthin, then Lord Treasurer of England, was advanced to the place of honour ;—a grievous slight upon the chief magistrate of the city, which he took in such dudgeon, that he left the banquet room, carrying in his train the aldermen, who are reported to have felt deep displeasure at the treatment his lordship had received, and whom his lordship consoled with a dinner at his own house instead.

As some explanation of this occurrence, it may be stated, that Ely House and its precincts claimed a privilege of express exemption from the Lord Mayor's jurisdiction. About this a contest arose in 1567, which was not decided for three years. Sir Roger Martin, the Lord Mayor, attended with his followers at Ely Rents, and attempted to weigh bread among Bishop Cox's tenantry, which they resisted, on the ground of alleged exemption from his authority ; they belonging, as they presumed, to the civil jurisdiction of the diocese of Ely. The dispute having increased to a great height, a council of arbitration was appointed, consisting, among others, of

Sir Nicholas Bacon, Lord Keeper, and Robert, Earl of Leicester, who at length ordered and decreed in favour of the right of the Lord Mayor and commonalty of London, which should hold, until the said bishop or his successors should show forth better matter for their defence.

The next circumstance to be noticed, regarding Ely House, has reference to an event of great interest and importance in the history of England. Hollinshed has the following passage, descriptive of the conduct of King Richard the Third, then Duke of Gloucester, on the morning of the execution of Lord Hastings at the Tower of London, in the year 1483; John Morton being Bishop of Ely at that time.

‘On the Fridaie (being the 13th of June), manie lords assembled in the Tower and there sat in councell, devising the honourable solemnitie of the king’s* coronation, of which the time appointed then so neere approached, that the pageants and subtilties were in making day and night at Westminster, and much vittels killed therefore, that afterward was cast awaie. These lords so sitting together communing of this matter, the Protector came in amongst them, first about nine of the clocke, saluting them courteouslie, and excusing himselfe that he had beene from them so long, saieing merrilie, that he had beene a sleeper that daie.

‘After a little talking with them, he said unto the Bishop of Ely.—“My Lord, you have verie good strawberries at your garden in Holborne, I require you let us have a messe of them.” “Gladlie, my Lord,” quoth he, “would God I had some better thing as readie to your pleasure as that!” And therewithall, in all hast, he sent his servant for a messe of strawberries.’

Then followed that extraordinary scene which took place in a room shown at this day, called the council-room, in the White Tower, in which the tyrant bared his withered arm, accused Hastings of witchcraft and treason, and condemned that nobleman to instant

* Edward V.

death. It is curious to trace in the striking incident in Shakspeare, and in Hume's finely-coloured account of the story, evident features of the lively sketch furnished by Hollinshed. See HUME's *History of England* (Edward V., 1483).

The passage relating to Ely House Garden, in the tragedy of "King Richard the Third," (Act 3, Sc. 4,) is as follows:—

A room in the Tower.—BUCKINGHAM, STANLEY, HASTINGS, THE BISHOP OF ELY, &c., *sitting at a table.*

Enter GLOUCESTER.

Ely. In happy time here comes the Duke himself.

Glo. My noble lords and cousins all, good morrow !

I have been long a sleeper ; but, I trust,
My absence doth neglect no great design,
Which, by my presence, might have been concluded.

Buck. Had you not come upon your cue, my lord,
William, Lord Hastings, had pronounced your part,—
I mean your voice for crowning of the king.

Glo. Than my Lord Hastings no man might be bolder ;
His lordship knows me well, and loves me well.
My Lord of Ely, when I was last in Holborn,
I saw good strawberries in your garden there ;
I do beseech you send for some of them.

Ely. Marry and will, my lord, with all my heart.—*Exit Ely.*

The fame of these "beautiful strawberries" has spread far and wide. In an old Latin play, preserved in the British Museum, a grave dialogue, in which they are celebrated*, takes place between Gloucester and the bishop. Yet, notwithstanding his complaisance, Morton was taken into custody by the Protector on the same day, with Archbishop Rotherham, Lord Stanley, and others, who were suspected of being opposed to the schemes of Richard.

* They are here styled "Decora fraga."

In 1531, a sumptuous banquet was given in the great hall of Ely Place, when eleven new serjeants were made. This hall is stated to have been a spacious room, seventy-four feet long, standing east and west, lighted with six Gothic windows, and furnished in a manner suitable to the hospitality of the times.

The entertainment lasted five days ; on one of which, (November the 13th,) King Henry the Eighth, and Queen Catherine, with the foreign ambassadors, were present. Among the guests on this grand occasion, were the judges, Lord Mayor, aldermen, the principal citizens, and the crafts of London ; besides knights, esquires, and gentlemen, whose places in the rooms, and at the tables, were regulated by their several degrees and stations.

“It were tedious,” says Stowe, “to set down the preparation of fish, flesh, and other victuals spent in this feast, and it would seem almost incredible, and (as to me it seemeth,) wanted little of a feast at a coronation. Nevertheless a little will I touch, for declaration of the change of prices. Edward Nevill was Seneschal, or Steward ; Thomas Ratcliffe, Comptroller ; Thomas Wildon, Clerk of the Kitchen.”

The following are extracts from the bill of fare :—

There were brought to the slaughter-house twenty-four great beefs at				
26s. 8d. a-piece from the shambles.		£	s.	d.
One carcase of an ox from the shambles	- - -	1	4	0
One hundred fat muttons, each	- - -	0	2	10
Fifty-one great veales, at	- - -	0	4	8
Thirty-four porkes, at	- - -	0	3	3
Ninety-one pigs, at	- - -	0	0	6
Capons of Greece, of one poulter, ten dozens, at (a-piece)		0	1	8
Capons of Kent, nine dozen and six, at	- - -	0	1	0
Pullets, the best 2½d. each. Other pullets	- - -	0	0	2
Pigeons, thirty-seven dozen, each dozen	- - -	0	0	2
Swans, thirteen dozen	- - -			
Larkes, 340 dozen, each dozen	- - -	0	0	5

Just before the buildings were pulled down in 1772, there was discovered, behind the wainscot and the hangings of the great drawing-room of the palace, a large recess, like a bow window, neatly wainscoted with oak, which led merely to a little window looking into the great hall, at a considerable height from the ground, and directly over the table at the upper end. It had long been stopped up; and the recess itself was at last quite hidden between the wainscot of the room. A similar window, looking into the hall, was to be found at Eltham Palace, at Penshurst, at Cowdray, and at many other seats of ancient hospitality.

The peculiar use of such windows seems to have been to give a constant view from one of the state apartments above, into the great hall, both while the inferior part of the guests were assembling, before the lord of the mansion and persons of dignity went down to the common repast, and on other occasions, when there was a large assembly of people in the great apartment*.

The Ely estate in Holborn was so much enlarged and improved by purchases of land, and by buildings erected by successive prelates, that the whole, consisting of the palace, gardens, pastures, and enclosures, contained twenty acres, in the reign of Queen Elizabeth. This is exclusive of the chapter property lying to the north-east, which has been mentioned above. The Bishops of Ely from that period lost, by their own surrender, on the undue interference of the crown, the undisputed possession of their estate. And this brings us to a painful period in our history. In the first Parliament of Queen Elizabeth an Act was passed, That the Queen might, on the vacancy of any archbishopric or bishopric, reserve to herself any lands belonging to them, giving the value in tenths, and impropriate rectories in lieu of them. There is a copy of this Act in

* See *Archæologia*, vol. vi., pp. 368, 9.

the Bishop of Ely's Register. It was never printed in any edition of the Statutes at large; but Bishop Gibson first inserted it in his Codex out of the Records of Parliament. The abuse of the power of taking away Church lands was justly apprehended at that time. We find, accordingly, that Dr. Cox, then Bishop of Ely elect, together with Dr. Parker, Archbishop elect of Canterbury, Grindal, Bishop elect of London, Barlow of Chichester, and Scory of Hereford, humbly addressed the Queen, praying Her Majesty to refrain from such exchanges. And that they might not be thought regardless of her great and necessary expenses, (which was made one of the pretences for this Act,) they offered in the name of the province of Canterbury one thousand marks to be paid to her yearly in consideration of her forbearance thereof. The Queen, however, was persuaded to proceed with the business. Commissioners were appointed to survey the several vacant sees, and her courtiers did not fail to avail themselves of the opportunity of selecting for their own use some of the best estates belonging to the Church.

Elizabeth is said to have been struck with the fine person and elegant accomplishments, of Sir Christopher Hatton, and partly on the strength of these, to have promoted him to the office of Lord Chancellor. His attention to business, however, and the sagacity of his judgments, appeared afterwards to have justified the choice.

Sir Robert Naunton* says: "Sir Christopher Hatton came to Court, as his opposite, Sir John Perrot, was wont to say, by the galliard: for he came thither as a private gentleman of the Innes of Court, in a maske; and for his activity, and person, which was tall and proportionable, taken into her favour. He was first made Vice-Chamberlain; and shortly after advanced to the place of Lord Chan-

* In his *Fragmenta Regalia*; a curious and entertaining sketch of Queen Elizabeth's court and favourites.

cellor. A gentleman, that, besides the graces of his person, and dancing, had also the endowment of a strong and subtile capacity, and that could soon learne the discipline and garbe both of the times and court; and the truth is, he had a large proportion of gifts and endowments, but too much for the season of envy; and he was a mere vegetable of the court, that sprung up at night, and sunke againe at his noone."

Gray's allusion to this statesman may be well inserted after the sketch given by Naunton:—

"Full oft within the spacious walls,
When he had fifty winters o'er him,
My grave Lord-keeper led the brawls*,
The seal and maces danc'd before him.

"His bushy beard and shoe-strings green,
His high-crowned hat and satin doublet,
Mov'd the stout heart of England's queen,
Though Pope and Spaniard could not trouble it."

In March, 1576, on the Queen's solicitation, Dr. Richard Cox, Bishop of Ely†, leased to Sir Christopher Hatton the gate-house and other portions of the palace, including the long gallery, fourteen acres of pasture land, and the keeping of the garden and orchards, for twenty-one years; the latter paying at Midsummer-day a red rose for the gate-house, with ten loads of hay, and £10 per annum for the garden. This garden was four hundred feet long, and almost as much broad. The bishop succeeded in reserving to himself and his successors free access through the gate-house, walking in the gardens, and gathering twenty bushels of roses yearly. Hatton having undertaken to repair,

* Brawls were a sort of figure-dance then in vogue.

† This learned and pious Prelate took a leading part in the preparation of our Liturgy, he having before assisted in drawing up King Edward the Sixth's First Common Prayer Book.

and make the gate-house a convenient dwelling, laid out nearly two thousand pounds upon the estate, and bought some little tenements near it; and, on this pretext, intreated the Queen to require the bishop to alienate it to him wholly, including the garden. Upon this, the Queen wrote to the bishop, desiring him to make a demise of the premises to her, till he or his successors should pay the sum of £1995 to Sir Christopher, the exact amount expended, as well as whatever he might afterwards lay out upon the property. Cox, in a well-written Latin letter, remonstrated against this proposition, pointing out the inconvenience which would ensue to himself and his successors, from such a spoliation. He said:—

“That they would miss the orchard and meadow; besides, that his conscience would not allow him to accede to such a piece of sacrilege. That on becoming Bishop of Ely, he had received into his hands certain farms, houses, &c., which former pious Sovereigns had thought fit to assign to the See. Of these things he ought to be a steward, not a scatterer.” He reminded the Queen of that golden rule, “Not to do that to another which one would not have done to oneself: And that the profit of one person is not to be increased by the damage of another.” He added, “that he could scarcely justify those princes who transferred things intended for pious uses, to purposes less pious.”

Neither these arguments, however, nor the acknowledged merits of the prelate, were allowed to prevail: against these were set the Queen's regard for Hatton, and a debt which he owed to her Majesty; for she had accommodated him with money which he was unable to raise. The issue of the correspondence was this; That the bishop should, by way of mortgage, convey to the Queen, and the Queen to Hatton, the house, gardens, &c., which were at that time on lease to him, but that they should be redeemable on the payment

of the sum which was stated to have been laid out. Thus the Queen gave the estate to Hatton to hold of the crown. At his death it appeared that he owed Her Majesty £40,000.

Cox underwent many troubles in the latter part of his life, owing to his endeavours to preserve the possessions of his See entire to his successors. Finding the Queen, and the great persons at court, too strong for him, he expressed a desire to resign his bishopric and retire from the world. The Lord Treasurer Burleigh, at the Bishop's instance, at length obtained of the Queen leave for him to retire accordingly; and, in 1580, forms of resignation were actually drawn up; but the Court not finding any clergyman of high character who would undertake the bishopric, it remained vacant for upwards of eighteen years after Cox's death. It appears, indeed, to have been viewed as a dignity burdened with heavy charges, and subject to many grievous annoyances.

The original manuscript, containing the Bishop's requests, in his own writing, when measures were in progress for his resignation, is still preserved among the Lansdowne MSS. in the British Museum,

1. He requires a pension out of the bishopric.*

2. "Because he hath never a house of his own," he asks for the house and manor of Donington, at the rent in the Queen's books, during his life, and for one year after.

The details of the persecution of Cox will be found in STRYPE'S *Annals of the Reformation*.

Dr. Martin Heton, who was the next bishop, demurred to the hard terms imposed with regard to Ely palace; upon which he received from the Queen a very strong letter, beginning "Proud Prelate!" Understanding "that he was backward in complying with his agreement, she would have him to know, that she who had made him what

* The pension which he is stated to have required was £200 per annum.

he was, would unmake him ; and if he did not forthwith fulfil his engagement, she would immediately unfrock him." This peremptory epistle was signed, "Yours, as you demean yourself, ELIZABETH." Nothing was done towards paying off the mortgage above mentioned till the time of the learned and excellent Bishop Lancelot Andrews, who commenced proceedings in earnest to this effect, but was prevented from carrying them further, by his translation from the See of Ely to that of Winchester.

Bishop Matthew Wren, the uncle of the eminent Sir Christopher Wren, afterwards tendered the money, and obtained a sentence in the Court of Requests against the Lady Elizabeth Hatton, who being then in possession of the premises, and, having expended upon them upwards of £7800, was preparing to give them up. The Long Parliament, in 1641, put a stop to this arrangement; the House having resolved, "That the Lady Hatton is a purchaser upon valuable considerations, and hath been at great expenses in building, repairing, and improving the said estate.

"Also resolved, That the estate of Lady Hatton, being good in law, is not redeemable in equity, nor subject to the said pretended trust.

"Resolved, that the bill depending in the Court of Requests between the Bishop of Ely and the Lady Hatton ought to be dismissed upon the merits of the case."

The bishop had, at about this time, been impeached in Parliament; certain ecclesiastical rules, which he had adopted in his diocese, and which, though alleged to have had a Popish tendency, were in fact, generally speaking, proofs of a strict fulfilment of his episcopal office, having called down upon him the anger of certain persons. The speech of Sir Thomas Widdrington, a puritan Member of the House of Commons, on his bringing in a bill to the House of Lords against

the bishop, on the 20th of July, 1641, was full of invective, and affords a curious specimen of the style of a powerful party in Parliament at that time who, as Nalson observes, appear to have thought it "the perfection of eloquence to assail the bishops, and the height of religion to be uncharitable." This speech, and the twenty-five charges against the bishop, form together a very remarkable document. The bill was carried up to the House of Lords on the 20th of July, 1641.

The Minute of Proceedings in the House of Commons on this matter stands as follows in NALSON'S *Historical Collections*:—

" July 5, 1641.—Sir Thomas Widdrington brought in 25 Articles against Matthew Wren, Lord Bishop of Ely, which being read and singly voted, were ordered to be engrossed; and then the House came to this vote upon it:—Resolved, &c., That Matthew Wren, Bishop of Ely, is, in the opinion of this House, unfit and unworthy to hold or contain any spiritual promotion or office in the Church or Commonwealth, and that the Lords be desired to join with this House to move His Majesty to remove the said Bishop from his person and service.

" 20th July.—The engrossed Articles against the Bishop of Ely were carried up this day by Sir Richard Widdrington, who, at the reading of them, made an oration to blacken the lawn sleeves."

The following is a portion of the puritan baronet's oration against the bishop:—

" In the year 1635 this man was created Bishop of Norwich. He is no sooner there but he marcheth furiously.

" In the creation of the world light was one of the first productions. The first visible action of this bishop, after his creation into the See, was to put out many burning and shining lights, to suspend divers able, learned, and conscientious ministers. He that should have

been the golden snuffer of these lights, became the extinguisher : and when these are taken away, where shall poor men light their candles ?

“ My Lords, this was not all. He puts out lights, and sets up firebrands in their places ; suspends painful ministers, and sets up idle, factious, and superstitious priests in their places ; yet it is the fortune of these men at this time, like rivers in the ocean, to be buried in the extreme activity of their diocesan.

“ He made a scourge, not of small cords, but of new injunctions, tied about with a strong twist, of a most dangerous oath ; and with this he whips not out buyers and sellers, but the faithful dispensers of the word, out of their churches, out of their estates, out of their dear country.

“ This Noah (if I may so call him without offence,) as soon as he entered into the ark of this diocese, sends, nay forces, doves to fly out of this ark ; and when they return unto him, with olive branches in their mouths, of peaceable and humble submission, he will not receive them into this ark again. Unless like ravens they would feed on the carrion of his new invention, they must not have any footing there. He stands as a flaming sword, to keep such out of his diocese.

“ My Lords, in the time of King Richard I., one of this man’s predecessors, a valiant bishop, went unto the holy war. This bishop hath raised a war at home in his own diocese ; a war, not against Saracens, Barbarians, Turks, or Infidels, but against good and well-disposed people. I know not what style to give this war ; without doubt, my Lords, this was no *holy* war.

“ The weapons of this warfare were twenty-eight injunctions, one hundred and thirty-nine articles, containing eight hundred and seventy-nine questions. The soldiers were Chancellors, Commis-

saries, Officials, Commissioners, Rural Deans, &c. Himself commanded in chief.

"The ways of assault and killing were by excommunications, suspensions, deprivations. I stay here—*Mille modis morimur mortales*.

"The magazine where all these were originally hatched and lodged was the malicious and superstitious breast of this Bishop.

"This diocese was the stage where the direful tragedies of this war were acted by the space of two years and upwards.

"Thus did he trouble Israel in the time of peace; nay, by these he put some of the horsemen and chariots of Israel to flight: out of these he raiseth a farm of 500 pounds for his primary visitation.

"He should, like Moses, have led his flock. Moses led the children of Israel thorow the Red Sea. This man drives part of his flock over the sea, but went not himself. Like Nimrod, he hath invaded the laws and liberty of the subject.

"The rod of Moses at a distance was a serpent. It was a rod again when it was taken into his hands. This Bishop was a serpent, a devouring serpent in the diocese of Norwich. Your Lordships will, peradventure, by handling of him, make him a rod again; or if not, I doubt not but your Lordships will chastise him with such rods as his crimes deserve."

The grievance complained of in the first article, was that the bishop had raised the eastern portion of the chancel two, three, or four steps, "that so the communion table then placed altar-wise might be the better seen of the people."

The second article alleged, that "he directed the communion table to be set up close under the wall at the east end of the chancel, altar-wise and not to be removed from thence; whereby the minister, who is by law to officiate at the north side of the table, must either stand and officiate at the north end of the table, so standing altar-wise,

or close after the popish and idolatrous manner stand and officiate at the west end of the table, with his back towards the people."

The third article objects to "his setting up a rail on the top of the new raised steps before the communion-table," &c.

The bishop's injunctions to the clergy to proceed from the desk to the Lord's Table, in order to read the Commandments, Epistle, Gospel, and the other portions of the service before the sermon, instead of reading them from the desk, was another ground of offence.

He declined to administer the Sacrament to those who refused to come up to the communion rail, and to kneel; "such coming up and kneeling," as it was alleged, "being an offence to the consciences of many good people, who, for fear of idolatry and superstition, durst not come to kneel at the said rail before the table, so placed altar-wise;" &c.

The result of all this was the commitment of the bishop to prison in the Tower, "where, with the courage and patience of a primitive Christian," says Nalson, "this worthy prelate continued a prisoner till the happy year 1660, wherein he saw himself, the Church, and this kingdom together, set at liberty, by the blessed restoration of his most sacred Majesty, Charles the Second, to his undoubted birth-right, the imperial crown of these realms, from the bondage and slavery under which they had for so many years lain languishing, and almost ready to expire."

Wren was imprisoned nearly twenty years, during which time the greatest and best part of Ely Palace was pulled down, the garden built into tenements to the value of several thousand pounds per annum, and the house reduced to a very dark inconvenient dwelling, retaining scarcely any remains of its former splendour, except the ancient hall and chapel.

In January, 1643, this once magnificent palace was ordered by the Parliament to be converted into a prison; and the serjeant-at-arms was appointed keeper, with a special charge that the chapel, especially the windows, as well as the garden, and trees, should receive no injury.

In the times of trouble which succeeded, Ely House was made the receptacle of wounded soldiers and sailors. Numbers of these, who died there, between 1648 and 1660, were carried to be buried in the churchyard of St. Andrew's, Holborn. The registers of burials in that parish abound with entries of this kind, there having been, during the commonwealth, many hundreds of persons buried from Ely House and Rents. The following are extracts :

1650 December William Shawe a captaine out of Ely House died and was bur 19th

1650 William Ward a man a victler by Ely House Gate died and was bur 31st Dec

William Rigg a man toulegatherer in Ely House Rents was buried the 15th Oct. 1652.

1652 December Elizabeth Vien a nurse-keeper to souldiers in Ely House was bur the 22nd

1653 Aprill A souldier dyed in Ely House and was buried 16 of Aprill 1653 But noe body knew his name He came in over night and dyed in ye morninge

1653 June A Dutchman whose name was not known, dyed in Ely House and was buried the 18th

1653 Aug Robert Barker a man sometimes porter of Ely House and was buried the 2d

Oct. Hannah Browning a maide in Ely House was buried ye 28th Oct 1653

Nov. Mary Slayer a woman in Ely House was buried ye 28th of Nov. 1653.

We also meet with the register of burial of Alexander Rigbey, one of the barons of the Exchequer, who died in Ely Rents, and of

many other persons, who occupied portions of these extensive buildings as tenants. By the last-mentioned entry, it appears that the baron died "on the 18th of August, 1650, and was carried away the 2nd of September following to be buried in Lancashire."

In March, 1660, it was referred to a Committee of the House of Commons to consider, "how the widows and orphans of the maimed soldiers at Ely House could be provided for and paid for the future, with the least prejudice to the nation; and how a weekly revenue might be settled for their maintenance; and how the maimed soldiers may be disposed of, so as the nation may be eased of the charge; and how they may be provided of a preaching minister."

By this time Hatton House had been pulled down, and the garden-ground laid out for building the street which is now called Hatton Garden; meanwhile, the purchases of leases, mortgages, &c., had rendered a settlement of the bishop's rights more difficult than before.

Hence it was, that neither Wren, nor any of his immediate successors, by whom bills were exhibited in Chancery for the recovery of the property to the see, were able to make much progress in the matter. But the exemplary and learned Bishop Simon Patrick put an end to the law-suit which had so long existed, by accepting a fee-farm rent for himself and his successors, amounting to £100 a year, settled on the bishopric. The part which Patrick took in the settlement of the business is well described by himself in his Autobiography, lately printed at Oxford from his original manuscript.

The Bishop, having in this interesting little work furnished a short history of the manner in which the estate had been disposed of in the reign of Elizabeth, and of the obstacles which had arisen to several of his predecessors in the way of a proper adjustment of differences, says :—

"Having understood all this, I let my Lord Nottingham* know,

* Father-in-law of the then Lord Hatton.

that I thought it would not be prudent in me to make a composition with the Lord Hatton, unless it were on such terms as I should be advised unto by the like great and wise persons as advised Bishop Gunning. He readily consented, and bade me choose whom and as many as I pleased, for he would not nominate so much as one. I did not think to name the same persons with whom Bishop Gunning consulted; but the present Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr. Tillotson, the Marquess of Halifax, the Earl of Pembroke, the Earl of Nottingham himself, (in whose justice I had great confidence,) and the Lord Chief Justice Holt; to which six persons I referred myself, as persons of great judgment and integrity, who could not be inclined to any partiality on either side.

“They met at my house on the end of November, and sat from five to eight o’clock, when we could not make an end for want of some witnesses. The Lord Halifax then moved that the whole might be opened and argued by Counsel learned in the law, one on either side, which was agreed. And Mr. Finch and Mr. Conyers came at the next meeting on the 13th of the same month, and at my house argued for and against me a long while. The original deed, wherein Queen Elizabeth granted that estate to the Hatton family, was laid before them; and about eight o’clock the Lords desired all to withdraw, and argued the matter among themselves, whether I should go to law, or take a composition. At last the Archbishop desired the Lord Chief Justice to answer this plain question, Whether, if he were Bishop of Ely, and knew as much of the law, and of this case as he did, he would compound with the Lord Hatton or no?

“To which he answered, He would compound. And whispering me in the ear, (who sat by him,) said it must be brought into Parliament, (for it would never be determined below,) and God alone knew how they would deal with me.

“Whereupon they all consented to my Lord Chief Justice his opinion; and the only question was what he should give me: and my Lord Nottingham said £100 per annum rent-charge, which my predecessor insisted upon: and accordingly they agreed, though the Lord Halifax struggled a good deal for more. Upon this a bill was prepared to be offered to the Parliament, and passed into an Act (as it easily did,) and some few other things were restored to the bishop; and a new building, and ground belonging to it, intended for a Church or Chapel, settled upon him; this I thought good to record, that posterity may understand I proceeded with due deliberation and caution in this business.” Page 168—171.

Pursuing our history of the Chapel, in order of time, we meet with the following entries in the Diary of the admirable John Evelyn:—

“Nov. 14, 1668. To London; invited to the consecration of that excellent person y^e Deane of Ripon, Dr. Wilkins, now made Bishop of Chester: it was at Ely House: the Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr. Cosin, Bishop of Durham, the Bishops of Ely, Salisbury, Rochester, and others officiating. Dr. Tillotson preached. Then we went to a sumptuous dinner in the Hall, where were the Duke of Buckingham, Judges, Secretaries of State, Lord Keeper, Council, noblemen, and innumerable other company, who were honourers of this incomparable man, invariably beloved by all who knew him.”

“27th April, 1693. My daughter Susanna was married to Wm. Draper, Esq., in the Chapel of Ely House, by Dr. Tenison, Bishop of Lincoln, (since Archbishop.) I gave her in portion £4000. Her jointure is £500 per annum. I pray Almighty God to give his blessing to this marriage.” After noticing her talents, learning, and accomplishments, and her great beauty of

person, he adds, "This character is due to her, though coming from her father."

The following letter, written by Queen Anne, when Princess of Denmark, in the reign of James the Second, was communicated to the *Gentleman's Magazine* for March, 1814. It is addressed to Dr. Turner, Bishop of Ely, the schoolfellow and friend of Dr. Ken, Bishop of Bath and Wells. "I hear the Bishop of Bath and Wells expounds this afternoon at your Chapel, and I have a great mind to hear him. Therefore I desire you would do me the favour, to lett some place be kept for me, where I may hear well and be the least taken of; for I will bring but one body with me, and desire I may not be known. I should not have given you the trouble, but that I was afraid if I had sent any body, they might have made some mistake. Pray let me know what time it begins."

It is no wonder that the several bishops in succession should have suffered great inconvenience from the despoiled and dismantled state of the palace. The great gate-house, with the principal part of the dwelling-house, having been pulled down, they were compelled to enter the apartments reserved for them by an old back way. The rooms under these apartments were occupied by tenants, to whom the property had been underlet. Yet under all the annoyance of continued spoliation, the Bishops of Ely still continued to use portions of the premises as a residence. Half of the Crypt, which is stated to have been once used for the interment of persons dying within the precinct, was frequented as a drinking-place, where liquor was retailed; the revellings of those assembled frequently interrupting the performance of divine service in the chapel above.

In the Harleian MSS. in the British Museum (3789, 15, Ely House,) the following occurs. It is a statement apparently made

by one of the Bishops, and expresses in simple but forcible language the reasons they had for complaint:—

“The case between the Bishop of Ely and my Lord Hatton, concerning Hatton Garden.

“By ancient records it doth appear, that there was purchased and dedicated to God’s service, and given to the Church, and settled on the see of Ely, by one who was at that time Bishop of Ely, a spacious dwelling-house and manor, with gardens, closes, out-houses, and all conveniences pleasantly situated, standing in a great street, and open behind to the fields, consisting of twenty acres.

That which the late Bishops of Ely thought they had great reason to complain of, is, that the greatest part of the dwelling-house is pulled down, together with a great gate-house and several out-houses embezzled and gone. The Bishop is confined to less than half. Several cellars are possessed by others, even under those rooms of the house which the Bishop hath now left to dwell in, and they are intermixed with the cellars which he uses, having lights and passages into the cloisters, and the most private parts of the house, even half of the vault, or burying-place under the chapel, is made use of as a publick cellar, or was so very lately, to sell drink in, there having frequently been revellings heard during Divine Service.

“Lastly, the Bishop cannot but be extremely grieved to see a town, in a manner, built upon his own ground, without a church for the inhabitants to repair to, not having any claim to any parish, and those which be nearest to them so very great, as that they cannot hope for room enough among their neighbours, in their churches.”

At about the beginning of the last century, there appear to have been serious intentions of pulling down the mansion, and the other portions of the premises. The following document, copied from the original manuscript in a fly-leaf of the Register of Baptisms and Marriages solemnized in the Chapel, will serve to show the number and extent of the buildings. This register-book is in the possession of the Bishop of Ely.

March ye first Ground Rents that may be made of Ely House, 1708.

	£	s.	d.
7s. pr. foot The Stable Yard with ye old Stable	35	0	0
6s. pr. foot The 9 Houses on ye east side	90	0	0
6s. pr. foot The 7 Houses of a smaller dimention east	56	0	0
7s. pr. foot The 5 Houses on ye west side of ye Square	50	0	0
5s. 9d. pr. foot 4 Houses on ye west side are smaller.	32	0	0
5s. 8d. pr. foot 7 Houses yt are smallest of all on ye west side	40	0	0

£303 0 0

The Lead including ye takeing down 1500 0 0

Stone, Timber, Bricks, Tiles, Glass, Wainscot, and
Iron and Rubbish to be sold from ye place, includ-
ing pulling down 1000 0 0

The Old Materials, excluding ye Lead to be used upon
ye premises, will yield 1500 0 0

This computation and valuation is made by us,

CHARLES STOAKES.

JOSEPH FIELD.

It will be seen by an extract from a valuable little work first published in 1714, entitled "*Pietas Londinensis*," being an "Account of all the Churches and Chapels of Ease in and about London and Westminster, and of the set times of their public prayers, sacraments, and sermons, both ordinary and extraordinary," that the daily services were usually held in Ely House Chapel at that time. "If his Lordship resides here," says the writer, "morning prayers are every day at eight, and on all Sundays, holydays, and public days, again at eleven, and evening prayers at four continually, besides a public sermon every Sunday at eleven for the domestics, but free to all that come; and prayers again at five every Sunday night, where also the sacrament is administered every first Sunday of the month; but if

the family be removed, there is no worship or divine service: all which is performed by Mr. Charles Morgan, his Lordship's Chaplain."

Six of the Bishops of Ely died in the palace. By the Chapel registers, it appears that several baptisms and marriages were solemnized in it, by various clergymen, but principally by the bishops or their chaplains.

The following are extracts from some of the numerous entries in the marriage register :—

Oct. 9, 1718.—Mr. Charles Fleetwood, of Ely House in Holborn, and Ann Weston, of Mapledurham, in the County of Oxford, married in Ely House Chapell, by the Right Rev. William Lord Bishop of Ely.

Vicesimo Primo Die Mensis Januarii, Anno Dom. 1724. In Capella infra Manerium Eporum Elien. in Holbourn, in Com. Middx. Brock Rand Cler. (veniâ prius a Revdo. Patre Thoma Epo. Elien. impetratâ.) Matrimonio conjunxit, Secundum Ritus Ecclîæ. Anglicanæ, William Innys de Paroch. Sti. Gregorii, Lond. Bibliopol. et Elizabetham Taylor, de Paroch. St. Andreæ, Holbourn, in Com. Middx. viduam, coram Testibus quamplurimis. (Willus Cant. Licen.)

May 6, 1744.—Charles Ray Clerk, his Lordship's Domestic Chaplain, was married by virtue of a licence from the Archbishop of Canterbury, in Ely House Chapell, by the Right Rev. Robert, Lord Bishop of Ely, to Ann Potter, of the parish of St. Andrew, Holborn, London, spinster, according to the rites of the Church of England, in the presence of many witnesses.

Sir John Reade of Shipton, in the county of Oxford, a Batchelor, and Harriett Barker of Sonning, in the county of Berks, a Spinster, were married at Ely House Chapel on the 18th day of October, 1759.

Among the baptisms are the following :—

6 May, 1746.—Mary, daughter of the Right Reverend Robert Butts, D.D., Lord Bishop of Ely, and Ann his wife, baptized in Ely House Chapel, by the Rev. Dr. Phillip Bearcroft, of the Charter House, London.

15 May, 1748.—Lucey, daughter of the Right Reverend Robert, Lord Bishop of Ely, and Ann his wife, baptized in Ely House Chapell, by the Reverend Mr. Charles Ray, his Lordship's Chaplain.

Several other children of the Bishop were baptized in this chapel.

The poet Cowper, in his *Task*, adverts to a singular circumstance which occurred in the Chapel at about the time of the defeat of the Pretender, the young Chevalier, by the Duke of Cumberland, at Culloden, in 1746 :—

So in the Chapel of old Ely House,
When wandering Charles*, who meant to be the third,
Had fled from William†, and the news was fresh,
The simple clerk, but loyal, did announce
And eke did rear right merrily two staves,
Sung to the praise and glory of King George !

Task, Book VI.

The premises soon after this fell into ruin and neglect ; until, in 1772, in the time of Dr. Edmund Keene, Bishop of Ely, a private Act of Parliament was procured, enabling the See of Ely to transfer the whole property to the crown. Dr. Keene had been consecrated Bishop of Chester in Ely Chapel, twenty years before this alienation was effected ; his consecration having taken place on the 22nd of March, 1752, when the Rev. Dr. John Green, Regius Professor of Divinity, and Master of Corpus Christi College, Cambridge, preached the sermon. The Act (12 Geo. III.) recites the names of Edmund, Lord Bishop of Ely, Owen S. Brereton, Esq., and Thomas Hunt, Esq., as trustees, in whose names the amount of compensation was to be paid into the Bank of England ; and provides that “ Ely House

* Prince Charles Edward, son of the Chevalier de St. George. He escaped to France in September, 1746.

† William Augustus, Duke of Cumberland, third son of King George the Second. He died in 1765, aged 44.

and Chapel, coach-houses, stables, offices, gardens, and yard, thereto belonging, with the right, members, privileges, and appurtenances," (except ingress and egress for reparation, as recited) "shall be vested in the imperial crown of this realm, and shall remain for ever unalienable from the same. And his Majesty, his heirs, &c., in the imperial crown of this realm, shall for ever hold and enjoy the same against the said Bishop of Ely," &c. Thus, after a possession of nearly five hundred years, Ely House, and the reserved grounds, were conveyed to the crown for £6,500, to be laid out, with £3,600, the amount of dilapidations charged on the family of the preceding Bishop, in providing a town residence for the see in another situation. It was at first contemplated to build a house at Knightsbridge; but the site determined upon was that of Clarendon House, Dover-street, Piccadilly. In addition to this, an annuity of £200 was settled, payable to the Bishops of Ely for ever. The site and materials of the old buildings of Ely House, including the Chapel, were, after the transfer, purchased by Mr. Charles Cole, architect and deputy-surveyor for the crown; the property having been duly conveyed to him by the Lords of the Treasury, under the powers of the Act, 15 Geo. III. Finding, however, that he had not sufficient funds to complete the buildings which he had designed, Mr. Cole, in 1778, by indentures of lease and release, granted the fee to certain parties to hold, on the condition of their granting him building leases as he should require them. He, therefore, and his descendants, thus became leaseholders for various long terms. As the proprietor of the estate, he then built the houses in Ely Place; and to these houses the Chapel was intended to serve as a place of worship.

In February, 1781, a trial took place in the Court of King's Bench, before William, Earl of Mansfield, Lord Chief Justice, and a special jury, in which the said Mr. Cole, then an inhabitant of Ely

Place, was the plaintiff, and Joseph Girdler and William Blackborrow, Esqrs., two magistrates of Middlesex, were defendants, it being an action of trespass for taking the plaintiff's watch to pay a poor's rate under a warrant of distress signed by the defendants. After hearing the evidence, Lord Mansfield delivered the following charge to the jury :

“THE question for you to try is simply, whether the palace of the Bishop of Ely in Holborn, sold to the public, and by them to the plaintiff, lies within the parish of St. Andrew, Holborn, or is extra-parochial. It is impossible at this day to trace how such places became extra-parochial. It has happened in various ways: but where grants have been long lost, possession and enjoyment, unless explained, must be taken as evidence of the title. The tenants of Privy Garden upon a trial were held to be extra-parochial; and the main ground of their claim was, that the premises belonged to the Archbishop of York as his palace, that they were held as such by Cardinal Wolsey, and were by him given to the crown. The jury found them to be extra-parochial, and they now enjoy that privilege. The tax for the poor was introduced in the reign of Queen Elizabeth; but from that time to the present the bishop has never paid it. Bishops have not any personal privilege from payment of taxes. They have not had any pew in the Church, nor have any of their family been baptized or buried there; they had great suites of officers in their families, who all used the bishop's own Chapel. If the enjoyment in this case is evidence that the premises were extra-parochial, they ought to be so now; and I must say that where it was notorious under the act that they were to be sold to private persons, the parish should then have set up their claim, and not have waited till the plaintiff had expended his money in the building*.”

* From a MS. in the Register-Book belonging to the Chapel.

The jury, without going out of court, found a verdict for the plaintiff.

Lord Stowell remarks, that this verdict was probably obtained on the assumption of mistaken facts, or on some insufficient statement of the circumstances.

Ely Place has since been ruled to be liable to rates.

A register-book belonging to the Chapel, which is continued from one in the custody of the Bishop of Ely, shows about fifty entries of baptism between 1780 and 1802. It commences with the baptism of "Charles, son of Charles and Elizabeth Cole, born December 1, 1779, baptized January 1, 1780." Only thirteen baptisms appear to have been solemnized in this Chapel between the last-mentioned date and the 7th of August, 1783.

The following Memorandum occurs as the next entry:—"The extraparochial Chapel in Ely Place, having been thoroughly repaired and beautified by the proprietor, Charles Cole, Esq., was opened for divine service on Sunday, the 10th day of December, 1786, by the Rev. Christopher Wells, D.D., Chaplain to the Right Honourable the Earl of Harcourt, and rector of Leigh, in the county of Worcester."

In March, 1787, the register of baptisms is resumed, and continued to September 1802, during which time thirty-six baptisms took place.

By a manuscript note, it appears that this register book came into the possession of the Rev. William Elisha Faulkner, as minister of the Chapel, on the 25th of March, 1793.

With reference to this clergyman, the following melancholy notice occurs in the *Gentleman's Magazine* for 1798:

Died, November 4, of *malignant fevers*,

The third son of the Rev. Mr. Faulkner:

On the 8th, aged forty, after preaching three times on the Sunday before,

the Rev. William Elisha Faulkner, Lecturer of St. Giles in the Fields, and minister of Ely Chapel.

And on the 12th, his youngest son.

His wife and second son were also attacked by the same disorder, and have recovered.

It remains shortly to trace the history of the Chapel to the present time. After the death of Mr. Cole, which happened in the year 1803, his representatives let the Chapel to Mrs. Britannia Faulkner, at a rent of £125 per annum, a clause being inserted in the deed obliging the party to defend extraparochial privileges. In 1814 the Chapel was let to the Rev. J. Wilcox, at a rent of £135, over and above a ground-rent of £75 per annum.

On the establishment of the Central School in Baldwin's Gardens, under the superintendence of the NATIONAL SOCIETY FOR PROMOTING THE EDUCATION OF THE POOR IN THE PRINCIPLES OF THE ESTABLISHED CHURCH, Mr. Joshua Watson, the benevolent treasurer of that institution, considered Ely Chapel to be a suitable place of worship for the children and their parents, and determined to take measures for securing it for this purpose. He, therefore, in the year 1815, purchased the lease at a large cost, and, in 1820, munificently presented it to the Society; assigning the whole management and direction to the Archbishop of Canterbury, and the Bishop of London, for the time being. Forty-two years of the lease still remain unexpired. The Rev. William Hart Coleridge*, M.A., Lecturer of St. Andrew, Holborn, was appointed to the ministry of the chapel under the new tenure. It being supposed that the inhabitants of Ely Place, and the adjoining neighbourhood, would continue to rent the pews, suitable arrangements were made in the body of the Chapel for their accommodation; and when the Central

* Consecrated Bishop of Barbados in 1824.

National School was transferred from Baldwin's Gardens to Westminster, the galleries which had been erected for the children were refitted for general use.

The expectations which had been formed, as to the attendance of persons in the district, having, in a great degree, failed, the Chapel was closed; but attention was called to it on the occasion of an appeal being made to the friends of the Church by the Lord Bishop of London, in April, 1836, for supplying means towards the erection of additional churches in the metropolis; and it became a subject of regret to many who reflected on the statements contained in the Bishop's powerful Address, that a venerable building, in every respect calculated for the purposes of public worship, should remain unoccupied. Accordingly, in the year 1836, at the instance, and by direction of the Archbishop of Canterbury, and the Bishop of London, Ely Chapel, after having been shut up for about two years and a half, was re-opened. The Rev. A. D'Arblay, M.A., of Christ's College, Cambridge, undertook the care of the Chapel for one year at least, without any other expense to the National Society than that of the requisite preparations for divine service. He commenced his duties in the autumn of that year, when several pews were taken. A few Sundays, however, had only elapsed, when Mr. D'Arblay was attacked by an illness, which, after a short but severe struggle, terminated in his death. Divine service is now regularly performed in the Chapel, morning and evening, by the present Minister, the Rev. Joseph Edwards, M.A., of Trinity College, Cambridge, and Second Master of King's College School, London.

The following is a List of the Bishops of Ely from the consecration of Bishop de Kirkeby, to the present time.

John de Kirkeby was consecrated in	- - -	1286	Thomas Thirlby	- -	1554
William de Luda	- -	1290	Richard Cox	- -	1559
Ralph de Walpole	- -	1297	[Vacant above eighteen years.]		
Robert de Orford	- -	1302	Martin Heton	- -	1598
John de Ketene	- -	1310	Lancelot Andrews	- -	1609
John de Hotham	- -	1316	Nicholas Felton	- -	1619
Simon de Montacute	- -	1337	John Buckeridge	- -	1628
Thomas Lisle	- -	1344	Francis White*	- -	1631
Reginald Brian	- -	1357	Matthew Wren	- -	1638
Simon de Langham	- -	1361	Benjamin Laney	- -	1667
John de Barnet	- -	1366	Peter Gunning	- -	1675
Thomas de Arundel	- -	1374	Francis Turner	- -	1684
John Fordham	- -	1388	Simon Patrick	- -	1691
Philip Morgan	- -	1426	John Moore*	- -	1707
Lewis de Luxembourg	- -	1438	William Fleetwood	- -	1714
Thomas Bouchier	- -	1443	Thomas Green*	- -	1723
William Grey	- -	1454	Robert Butts*	- -	1738
John Morton	- -	1478	Thomas Gooch*	- -	1748
John Alcock	- -	1480	Matthias Mawson*	- -	1754
Richard Redman	- -	1501	Edmund Keene	- -	1770
James Stanley	- -	1506	James Yorke	- -	1781
Nicholas West	- -	1515	Thomas Dampier	- -	1808
Thomas Goodrich	- -	1534	Bowyer Edward Sparke	- -	1812
			Joseph Allen	- -	1836

A short account of some of the Bishops, whose names have occurred in this notice, may be interesting, as adding to the particular illustration of Ely Chapel and Palace.

JOHN DE KIRKEBY, Archdeacon of Coventry, and the King's Treasurer, before his advancement to the See of Ely, had been elected Bishop of Rochester, A.D. 1283.

* The Bishops whose names are marked with an asterisk died in Ely House, Holborn.

WILLIAM DE LUDA had previously held the Deanery of St. Martin-le-Grand and the Archdeaconry of Durham, and had also the offices of Chamberlain, Treasurer, and Keeper of the Wardrobe to the King.

JOHN HOTHAM, Prebendary of York, and Chancellor of the King's Exchequer, was elected Bishop 1316, "*quasi per inspirationem Spiritûs sancti.*" Mr. Cole, in his MSS. in the British Museum, has preserved an imperfect impression of this Bishop's seal appended to an indulgence granted by him at *Holeburn*, 5 Id. Feb. 1322, to the benefactors to the guild of our Lady in Cambridge, now making a part of Corpus Christi College.

THOMAS DE ARUNDEL, second son of Richard Earl of Arundel, was consecrated in 1374. The Chancellorship of the University of Cambridge being vacant in 1384, the Bishop, by his letters patent, constituted William de Gotham, and John de Burgh, Doctors in Divinity, his Commissioners to supply and execute that office during the vacancy; and J. de Burgh, one of the said Commissioners, being elected to that office by the University, was admitted and confirmed Chancellor by the Bishop, in his Chapel in Holborn, London, Nov. 24, in that year, and then took the oaths usual on that occasion. Michael de la Pole, Earl of Suffolk, having been removed from the office of Lord Chancellor of England on the petition of the Lords and Commons in Parliament, Arundel was appointed Chancellor in his stead. In 1388, he was by Papal provision translated to the see of York, and the next year resigned the Seal of Chancellor; but in 1391 he was again made Chancellor, and in 1396 was translated to the See of Canterbury, and died Feb. 19, 1414. He was a prelate of great splendour and munificence, and while he held the see of Ely, almost rebuilt the Bishop's Palace in Holborn.

JOHN ALCOCK, Bishop of Rochester and Lord Chancellor under King Edward IV. and Henry VII. In 1487, he visited in person the ancient nunnery of St. Rhadegund, Cambridge, which, on account of its disorders and irregularities, was, on his representation, suppressed. He founded in its stead, and on its site, Jesus College in that University.

RICHARD COX was born at Whaddon, in Buckinghamshire, educated at Eton, and thence elected to King's College, Cambridge, of which society he was appointed fellow in 1519; but, in 1525, he went, at the instance of Cardinal Wolsey, to his newly-founded College in Oxford. Cox next became Master of

Eton School, chaplain to the King, and tutor to the Prince of Wales, afterwards King Edward VI. When Edward came to the throne, Dr. Cox was made his almoner, the University of Oxford electing him their Chancellor. He was besides appointed a Canon of Windsor, and then Dean of Westminster. On the death of the King, and the accession of Queen Mary, he was committed to prison on suspicion of having favoured the cause of Lady Jane Grey, but was shortly released; when finding all the measures of the Crown tending towards Popery, he fled with many others to Frankfort. He had early in life been an advocate for the Reformation, and continued while in exile a zealous defender of the reformed religion, and was constant in the use of the English Liturgy. In the very beginning of Queen Elizabeth's reign, and before it was publicly known how she stood affected to religion, Dr. Cox returned to England. He was at once admitted into the Councils of her Ministers, and appointed to confer with other learned and pious men on the proper means of restoring the good order of the Church, to revise the Common Prayer, as in King Edward's time, and to prepare other matters against the sitting of Parliament. On the meeting of Parliament, Dr. Cox was appointed to preach before them, and during the Session was engaged with other Protestant divines to hold a public disputation with the Popish Bishops. When sixty years old he was nominated to the see of Ely. He died after an industrious and useful life, July 22, 1581. The vexations to which he was exposed, in his connexion with the see of Ely, are recorded in their proper place in this notice.

LANCELOT ANDREWS, D.D. This learned and excellent prelate was born in the parish of Allhallows Barking, in the City of London, and received the first part of his education in Merchant Tailors' School. He was sent to Pembroke College, Cambridge, of which Society he became a Fellow in 1576. Sir Francis Walsingham, who then lived in the parish of St. Olave, Hart Street, adjoining the parish of Allhallows Barking, was Andrews' first patron. The acute David Lloyd, in his *Observations on the Life of Sir Francis Walsingham**, remarks—"He first observed the great Bishop of Winchester fit to serve the Church upon the unlikely youth's first Sermon, at Allhallows Barking."

He became Walsingham's Chaplain, and was by his means preferred to a Prebend in the Collegiate Church of Southwell, and made Prebendary of

* State Worthies.

Pancras, and Residentiary of St. Paul's, London. He was soon appointed to the Vicarage of St. Giles, Cripplegate, and became Master of Pembroke College in 1589. In 1601 we find him Dean of St. Paul's. In 1605 he resigned his several preferments on being made Bishop of Chichester. He was translated to Ely in 1609, and from thence to Winchester in 1619. He died at Winchester House, Southwark, in 1626, in the 71st year of his age, and was buried in the parish church of St. Saviour, where a fine monument was erected to his memory.

He was a person of extraordinary genius and acquirements, very pious and charitable, of a blameless life, an excellent divine, and an eminent preacher; a man of universal learning, and of great talents for business. One of his greatest distinctions was the leading part which he took in the English translation of the Bible, now in common use among us. The name of Lancelot Andrews stands at the head of the forty-seven translators. His benefactions and charities were numerous, and generally bestowed in doing good to the establishments with which he had been honourably connected. His foundation of Scholarships at Pembroke College, Cambridge, and his liberal outlay of two thousand pounds in the repairs of Ely House, Holborn, deserve to be recorded in these pages.

MATTHEW WREN, eldest son of Sir F. Wren, citizen and mercer, was born in the parish of St. Peter Cheap, London, Dec. 23, 1585, and admitted, in 1601, a Student in Pembroke College, Cambridge, of which society he was afterwards elected a fellow. He was appointed to attend Prince Charles, afterwards King Charles I., as Chaplain, in his journey into Spain, on the occasion of the Spanish match. He subsequently attended Charles on his going into Scotland in 1633. He became Bishop successively of Hereford, Norwich, and Ely. He was a person of great ability and learning, of unshaken loyalty, and a zealous advocate for promoting order and discipline in the Church, which he endeavoured, in concert with Archbishop Laud, to raise to a higher standard than the circumstances of the times would permit. On the breaking out of the great rebellion in 1641, the Bishops were excluded from the House of Lords, on which he joined with several of his brethren in a protest against all proceedings of the House during their exclusion. For this they were charged with high treason, and committed to the Tower. On his release, in May, 1642, the Bishop went to live at Downham, near Ely; but he was again arrested and committed to the

Tower, where he remained nearly eighteen years with undaunted resolution and much patience, having survived the rebellion, and was released in March, 1660: he built the beautiful Chapel at Pembroke College, endowed it with the manor of Hardwicke, Cambridgeshire, dedicated it on the feast of St. Matthew, Sept. 21, 1665, and by his will left all the plate richly gilt, and the whole furniture of his episcopal chapel for its use. He died in 1667, aged 82, and was buried in a vault under the communion-table of Pembroke College Chapel, without any further notice than the initial letters of his name, and the date of his death on his coffin.

FRANCIS TURNER was one of the six Bishops who joined Archbishop Sancroft, in May, 18, 1688, in subscribing and presenting a petition to King James the Second, setting forth their reasons why they could not comply with his commands in causing His Majesty's Declaration for Liberty of Conscience to be read in the churches in their diocese. This petition being styled by the Court a seditious libel against His Majesty and Government, the Bishops were called before the Privy Council; and refusing to enter into recognizances to appear in the Court of King's Bench to answer the misdemeanour in framing and presenting the said petition, were, on June 8, committed to the Tower. On the 15th of the same month they were brought by Habeas Corpus to the King's Bench Bar, when pleading *Not Guilty* to the information against them, they were admitted to bail. On the 29th they came to their trials in Westminster Hall, and the next morning were acquitted, to the great joy of the nation.

When King William and Queen Mary were settled on the throne, this Bishop, with others of the episcopal bench, and many of the Clergy in general, refused to acknowledge the established Government, out of a conscientious regard to the allegiance they had sworn to King James the Second; and declining to take the oaths, Dr. Turner was deprived of his see. He spent the rest of his life in retirement, and died at Therfield, Herts, in 1708.

SIMON PATRICK was born at Gainsborough, Lincolnshire, September 8, 1626. In 1644 he was admitted a sizar, and afterwards became Fellow, of Queen's College, Cambridge. He was ordained by Joseph Hall, D.D., then Bishop of Norwich. After the restoration, he was elected Master of Queen's, against the King's recommendation of Mr. A. Sparrow, afterwards Bishop of Norwich; but the case was decided in favour of Mr. Sparrow. He had been previously

appointed to the living of Battersea, where he published one of his Consolatory Discourses, entitled "The Heart's Ease, or a Remedy against Trouble." This collection was afterwards increased, there being added to it, "A Consolatory Discourse to prevent immoderate Grief for the Death of Friends," "An Exhortation to those who are shut up from society by Sickness," "A Consolatory Discourse in times of Trouble and Danger." In 1662 Mr. Patrick was presented by William, Earl of Bedford, to the Rectory of St. Paul's, Covent Garden, where he gained the love and esteem of his parishioners, more especially by continuing with them all the time of the great plague in London, in 1665. Throughout the progress of that awful visitation he continued to administer to the spiritual and temporal wants of all placed under his pastoral charge. He was afterwards successively Prebendary of Westminster, and Dean of Peterborough. During the reign of King James the Second, he was one of those eminent persons, who, by their discourses and writings, distinguished themselves in defending the Protestant religion, as taught by the Church of England, and in opposing the violent attempts that were then made to introduce Popery and arbitrary power. Dr. Patrick was advanced to the See of Chichester in 1689, and in 1691 to that of Ely, which had become vacant on Bishop Turner's refusing to take the oaths to William and Mary.

After bringing to a final issue the lawsuit which had been depending for many years between the Bishops of Ely and Lord Hatton's family, Bishop Patrick died at Ely in 1707, in the 81st year of his age. Many of the smaller works of this truly excellent person have been lately published at Oxford, and by the Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge. He has been principally known as an author by his valuable Commentary on portions of the Old Testament, first published in 1694.

THE END.

LONDON:
HARRISON AND Co., PRINTERS,
45, ST. MARTIN'S LANE.

NOV 28 1930

